(d) and (e) This train was run from surplus metre gauge coaches of Rajasthan's Palace on Wheels, which after gauge conversion from MG to BG in that sector is run by BG coaches. Due to natural calamities like plague epidemic in Gujarat, recent earthquake and economic recession, the expected tourist traffic did not materialize. A review has been done to minimize the cost of operation of this train.

Unproductive Railway Zones

2096. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
DR C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the seven new Railway Zones are proving unproductive;

(b) if so, the names of those Zones and the expenditure being incurred on them;

(c) whether the CAG Report of March, 2000 had remarked that creation of the new Railway Zones would lead to unproductive investment; and

(d) *if* so, what measures have been taken by Government to make them productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. The seven new Railway zones are yet to become operational. The expenditure incurred so far on creation of these seven zones has been meagre in view of the resource crunch being faced by the Railways. Therefore, the question of their being unproductive does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The question of productivity of new zones will arise only after they are operationalised depending upon the availability of resources for this purpose.